

## CLAIMS

1. A protein which comprises the same or  
5 substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino  
acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1, or a salt  
thereof.
2. A partial peptide of the protein according to  
claim 1, or a salt thereof.
- 10 3. A DNA which comprises a DNA encoding the  
protein according to claim 1.
4. A DNA according to claim 3, which has the base  
sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2.
5. A recombinant vector which comprises the DNA  
15 according to claim 3.
6. A transformant transformed with the recombinant  
vector according to claim 5.
7. A method of producing the protein or its salt  
according to claim 1, which comprises culturing the  
20 transformant according to claim 6 and producing and  
accumulating the protein according to claim 1.
8. An antibody to the protein according to claim 1,  
the partial peptide according to claim 2, or a salt  
thereof.
- 25 9. A method of determining a ligand to the protein  
or its salt according to claim 1, which comprises using  
the protein according to claim 1 or the partial peptide  
according to claim 2, or a salt thereof.
10. A method of screening a compound or its salt  
30 that alters the binding property between a ligand and  
the protein or its salt according to claim 1, which  
comprises using the protein according to claim 1, the  
partial peptide according to claim 2, or a salt thereof.
11. A kit for screening a compound or its salt  
35 that alters the binding property between a ligand and

the protein or its salt according to claim 1, which comprises the protein according to claim 1 or the partial peptide according to claim 2, or a salt thereof.

5       12. A compound or its salt that alters the binding property between a ligand and the protein or its salt according to claim 1, which is obtainable using the screening method according to claim 10 or the screening kit according to claim 11.

10       13. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound or its salt that alters the binding property between a ligand and the protein or its salt according to claim 1, which is obtainable using the screening method according to claim 10 or the screening kit according to claim 11.

15       14. A DNA which hybridizes to the DNA according to claim 3 under highly stringent conditions.